

ABSTRACT

Abstract (once amended). Please delete the abstract in its entirety and replace it with the following rewritten abstract:

B1 --A method for extending the operating life of a fixed bed reactor for reacting a feedstock in which a feedstock is contacted with a fixed bed of catalytic material contained in the reactor.--

IN THE CLAIMS

9. (Amended). A method for operating a fixed bed reactor for reacting a feedstock in which the feedstock is contacted with a fixed bed of catalytic material contained in said reactor said fixed bed of catalytic material having a top and bottom layer, and wherein during operating of said fixed bed reactor, there is a pressure drop across said fixed bed of catalytic material and wherein the pressure drop across said top layer of said fixed bed of catalytic material increases during reaction of said feedstock due to fouling of said top layer of said fixed bed of catalytic material, comprising the sequential steps of (a) introducing said feedstock into said fixed bed of catalytic material, wherein a majority of said feedstock will flow through said top layer of said fixed bed of catalytic material and (b) as said top layer of said fixed bed of catalytic material fouls, bypassing an increasing amount of said feedstock to said bottom layer of said fixed bed of catalytic material.

sub E2 10. (Amended). The method of claim 9 wherein said feedstock is selected from the group consisting of liquid feed, vapor feed, and mixtures thereof.